

FROM THE OFFICE OF

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Board OKs new solar rules

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors Tuesday voted 4-0 to approve a new solar energy ordinance that protects rural neighborhoods and the desert environment while balancing the needs of a growing solar industry.

First District Supervisor Robert Lovingood said the ordinance strikes a fair compromise between rural homeowners and developers of commercial solar projects. Earlier this year Lovingood and Third District Supervisor James Ramos advocated for a temporary moratorium on new solar projects to allow time for the ordinance to be drafted. The new ordinance replaces the moratorium.

"There were many solar projects that were in the wrong places at the wrong time," Lovingood said. "Overall, I think we are taking a balanced approach that is needed."

The new ordinance sets clear guidance as Planning Commissioners in evaluating solar projects. It also incorporates many of the ideas offered during a series of public meetings. Over the next year, county officials will work on revising the county General Plan, which will incorporate and refine county solar policy.